

September 10, 2021

Dear Community Members:

It's already the third day of school. We are enjoying being back with the students. As I have visited our classrooms, I have seen quality instruction and the foundations of strong rapport and relationships in our schools.

**Health Update.** Once again this week, we have seen a decline in county-wide COVID-19 cases. We are down from a high point of 984.3 cases per hundred-thousand to 615.9 per hundred-thousand. This rate is still higher than anything we saw prior to July and while trending the right way, still causes us to need to practice safety. Students have done a better job this fall with proper masking (i.e. over the nose, etc.). As has been previously mentioned, we still are maintaining most of the protocols that were in place last year.

Unfortunately, we have needed to initiate a pause on our preschool program due to one COVID case and another close contact. The pause is meant to allow families an opportunity to monitor the health of their own children with hopes that we can mitigate any potential spread. To our knowledge, the one case and one close contact are not related to each other. We also have a positive COVID case within the volleyball team, which has caused us to temporarily resume mask wearing for the team. Flexibility will resume for this team once the proper waiting period has elapsed and we can confirm that there was no spread.

Please remember that in order for school to remain open to in-person instruction, children CANNOT come to school when ill. Additionally, ***if a family member has COVID, children who have been around them (close contacts) may not be in attendance at school until proper waiting periods have elapsed.*** If a family member has COVID, please contact our school nurse at Hilda Lahti Elementary to discuss timeframes. We will also help the student keep up with their learning while not in school. Several local districts have had to delay the start of school due to high case counts in the school community. Knappa does not want to join them.

**Football Tonight.** Tonight will be our first home football game on our own field since 2019. The outdoor masking requirement requires masking for spectators when distancing is not possible. We are fortunate in Knappa that the field area is large and allows for people to spread out. Please maintain proper distancing between your family and others while enjoying the games. Please also bring a mask so that it is available in case you can't distance (i.e. at the restroom, etc.). There will not be concessions tonight, so make sure to eat beforehand or bring your own snacks. This will prevent crowding in that area.

**Curriculum Review Volunteers Needed.** This fall, we will be conducting four curriculum reviews/adoptions: Elementary Mathematics, K-5 Health, ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages), and we will also be conducting our required bi-annual review of the middle school health curriculum. On Monday, a sign up link will be on the website to identify volunteers to serve on these committees. Please spread the word. Our goal is to have proper parent and community involvement in these processes. In the cases of adoptions, after the committee narrows down the options, the materials will be made available for public review and comment. Our goal is to have each committee be

no larger than 12 members to facilitate quality dialogue and we will work to ensure that the groups are inclusive of the multitude of perspectives that exist within our community. In all cases, as a public school district in the State of Oregon, we must adhere to the State Standards in each subject area.

**September 11.** As we reach the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the September 11 attack in New York, none of our current students were alive during that event. However, they will hear about it through media and remembrances. Please make sure that you are aware of the multitude of emotions our children may feel when being reminded of this event, and do what you can to comfort them. As always, our educators and counselors can help with this if you need it. Please let us know if your student is especially impacted by reminders of these happenings in our Nation's history.

Thank you for the privilege of serving the community's children.

Warm regards,

Bill Fritz, Ph.D.

Superintendent

Knappa School District #4